(c) whether Government would consider setting up the Board's office in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The National Fisheries Development Board has been registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 and is located at Hyderabad. The Board shall co-ordinate activities pertaining to fisheries undertaken by different Ministries/ Departments in the Central Government and also work in co-ordination with the States/Union Territories Governments to improve production, processing, storage, transport and marketing of the products of capture and culture fisheries. No plans have been drawn up for any State at present including Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

Reduction in consumption of coffee

2734. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of coffee in the country has remained stagnant for several decades;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government during the last three years to promote the consumption of Coffee within the country; and

(c) what are the plans of Government to develop the domestic market for Coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Domestic Coffee consumption remained stagnant at around 50,000 MT till 1999. Thereafter consumption has increased to about 80,000 MT (in 2005).

(b) and (c) Recognizing the recent trends of increase in domestic coffee consumption in the country, the Government has identified the need to further increase domestic coffee consumption as a priority area which is expected to provide better stability for coffee prices in the domestic market.

The Government of India through the Coffee Board is implementing a scheme on 'Market Promotion', under which various programmes are implemented for increasing domestic consumpion. These include training courses, participation in national festivals and exhibitions, establishment of a high technology roasting & packaging facility by the Coffee Board and promotion of sales through promotional units of the Board. Further, the Government is conducting the 'Kaapi Shastra Programme' for providing technical training in the art of retailing coffee to interested entrepreneurs in different locations of the country through the Coffee Board.

Resolution of issues in the WTO

2735. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India withdrew from the mini ministerial level conference of WTO held recently in Geneva;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made by various interests to come to a compromise on the issue, concerning the developed and the developing countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) All WTO Members, including India, are presently reflecting upon how to enable the resumption of the suspended negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. In order to ensure that the WTO negotiating process and the outcome of the Doha Work Programme embody the development imperatives of developing countries articulated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July 2004 Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005, India has intensified its outreach to other developing countries, like-minded Members of the WTO and the trade majors. The Government has also engaged in consultations with stakeholders in order to evolve its position